

## Snake fence is Eagle project for Anderson

By GAIL WILLIAMS  
Observer staff

When Parker Anderson was looking for an Eagle Scout project, he found an item in the community newsletter listing volunteer needs at Chapman's-Beverley Mill, including building a bridge and dam and moving large rocks. Building an authentic snake-rail fence near the entrance was Parker's idea.

Starting in July 2009, Parker, 14, worked with the mill's volunteer coordinators, architects, consultants, Culpeper Farmers Cooperative (CFC) and others to carry out his project. "As part of restoring the mill, the fence will give it a Civil War feeling when people come in," Parker said.

As the first of more than 20 helpers gathered at 9 a.m. on June 12, Anderson outlined the work, the

way to handle safety issues such as cuts, splinters and insect bites as well as the location of drinks and bathrooms.

While Anderson was busy directing his fellow Troop 1361 members and friends, his mother, Jamie Anderson, explained how his project came to fruition. After deciding what he wanted to do, Parker priced the project at \$1,200 and began raising funds. To let potential donors know about it, he made a short video about the mill and included a clip of the fencing at Manassas Battlefield. He sent it to friends and family and up-loaded it to YouTube. She showed off his notebook containing checklists, drawings, work lists, work hours and presentations Parker had to track as he planned the project.

"I'm very proud of him," Anderson said. "I don't know how

many are this far along in scouts. When they're that young, though, we have to guide them; for example, with thank you letters and follow-up presentations."

Parker, his mom said, comes from a long line of scouts, including his dad, who earned Eagle Scout. Parker's younger brothers and older sister, who helped that day, are scouts as well.

Anderson said Parker has been a scout since first grade and has 30 merit badges. As a Cub Scout, he received a Youth Crime Prevention Award from the Prince William County Police Department for organizing a National Night Out block party. He will attend the upcoming National Jamboree as a patrol leader. Anderson confirmed Parker is the youngest in his troop to complete an Eagle project.

Glenn Covington, CFC-Marshall's store manager, delivered 118 rails for the snake-rail fence. He said his store couldn't donate the expensive timber but sold it at cost and delivered it to the site for free. Covington said the wood is so hard that it doesn't need to be treated. It's also rustic-looking, and no two are alike. This is the same timber used for the fencing at Manassas and Petersburg Battlefields. He said the store sells a lot for these types of restoration projects.

Doug Fulmer, Chapman's-



Parker Anderson, who created a fencing project for his Eagle Scout, talked to Doug Fulmer about the project at Chapman's-Beverley Mill. Gail Williams / the Bull Run Observer

## Building two dog houses for rescue group is Eagle project for Burgess

Joshua Burgess has completed his Boy Scout Eagle project—with the help of seven Scouts and two adults from his troop. He was able to build two large dog houses that will be donated to Virginia German Shepherd Rescue (VGSR) Organization, located in Sterling.

Additionally, Joshua coordinated a large donation drive, within Troop 1833, Haymarket, for the

him to help this organization. Joshua's father and a few friends built his dog, Sarge a dog house. So, Joshua decided to duplicate his dog's-house for the VGSR.

Joshua began his scouting adventure eight years ago as a Cub Scout, and he followed the path to Life Scout, the last rank before earning the coveted rank of Eagle.

A member of Boy Scout Troop

Beverley Mill volunteer and development coordinator, said the non-profit organization relies heavily on volunteers and donations to accomplish needed work at the site. He said he appreciated Eagle Scouts' work because they are detail oriented.

"Historians tell us there was a snake rail fence along this area on both sides [of the road]. Snake fences were used to keep livestock in and critters out. There are also remnants of stone walls here. Parker was pro-active. He put together a project plan; we met with the architects and consultants in April, and they made a blueprint that we're following," Fulmer said. He was

pleased with the timing, which occurred the day before an event at the mill.

Fulmer said the mill is always looking for volunteers and donations. Visitors are also welcomed; the mill is open on weekends from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. More information is online at [www.chapmansmill.org](http://www.chapmansmill.org).

Parker said the Eagle project gave him leadership experience. As the physical work neared the end, he said, "I'm excited. This was a great turnout, and we had good weather for this. I'm really happy that so many came out to support me."

Parker expects to receive his Eagle in a Court of Honor ceremony this fall.